GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2564
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF DISABLED
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission has called for a comprehensive andintegral convention to protect and promote the rights of the people with disabilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL)

(a)&(b) As reported by National Human Rights Commission, an International Workshopfor National Human Rights Institutions from the Commonwealth and Asia Pacific Region was organized in new Delhi from 26th to 29th May, 2003 to discuss a proposal to develop a comprehensive and integral United Nations Convention to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities .

In the second meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee, appointed by the UN GeneralAssembly to consider this matter , the Government of India has supported the proposal to have an International Convention on the protection and promotion ofthe Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

In order to protect and promote the interest of the persons with disabilities, `The Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995` which provides for the protection of rights ofpersons with disabilities and also delineates affirmative action to promote their educational and economic empowerment; and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 have already been enacted.